

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## LEAD IN SEPTEMBER 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in September was 26,800 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in September was 894 t, up by 3% from that in August 2010. Year-to-date mine production through September 2010 was about 11% less than that of the same period of 2009. Secondary refinery production of lead decreased slightly compared with that of the previous month. Secondary refinery production through September 2010 was slightly less than that in the corresponding period of 2009.

Total imports of lead for consumption for the year to date through August 2010 were about 9% higher than those in the same period of 2009. Canada (86%) and Mexico (12%) were the principal sources of imported refined lead for the year through August 2010. Exports of lead scrap in August 2010 increased by 153% from those in the previous month. Lead scrap exports through the first 8 months of 2010 were 62% less than those during the same period of 2009.

The average Platts Metals Week North American producer price for lead in September 2010 was \$1.02 per pound, up 7% from that of the previous month and 5% lower than that in September 2009. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash

price of lead in September 2010 averaged \$2,184 per metric ton, up by 5% from that of the previous month and slightly lower than that in September 2009. Global LME lead stocks at the end of September 2010 were 194,375 t, slightly greater than those at the end of August 2010 and 52% greater than those at month-end September 2009.

The Battery Council International reported that 76.8 million lead-acid automotive batteries were shipped in North America through the first 8 months of 2010, a 9% increase compared with shipments during the same period of 2009. North American shipments of replacement lead-acid automotive batteries (67.5 million) through August 2010 were 5% greater than those in the corresponding period of 2009. Shipments of original equipment lead-acid automotive batteries (9.31 million) through August 2010 increased by 45% compared with shipments through August 2009 (Battery Council International, 2010).

## Reference Cited

Battery Council International, 2010, BCI 2010 monthly shipment report: Chicago, IL, Battery Council International, October 15.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2009		2010		
	Year	January-September	August	September	January-September
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	395,000	301,000	26,900 <sup>r</sup>	26,800	268,000
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	838,000	95,700	93,400	824,000
Estimated	11,200	8,380	953	934	9,100
Recovered from copper-base scrap <sup>c</sup>	15,000	11,300	1,250	1,250	11,300
Total secondary	1,150,000	857,000	98,000	95,600	844,000
Consumption:					
Reported	1,380,000	1,030,000	113,000	113,000	1,020,000
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	41,500	30,900	3,400	3,380	30,600
Total	1,430,000	1,060,000	117,000	116,000	1,050,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	61,700	53,800	59,100 <sup>r</sup>	58,700	58,700
Imports for consumption:					
Base bullion	844	710	--	NA	146 <sup>2</sup>
Refined metal	251,000	182,000	16,900	NA	182,000 <sup>2</sup>
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	287,000	207,000	25,900	NA	151,000 <sup>2</sup>
Bullion	34	25	1	NA	1 <sup>2</sup>
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,000	67,700	6,310	NA	47,500 <sup>2</sup>
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,070	1,870	88	NA	625 <sup>2</sup>
Scrap (gross weight)	140,000	276,000	2,820	NA	36,800 <sup>2</sup>
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	86.87	78.83	95.79	102.24	105.68

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes data for January-August only; September 2010 data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2  
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price ¢/lb	London Metal Exchange cash		Sterling exchange rate \$/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2009:				
September	107.80	2,203.82	1,348.43	1.634360
October	110.79	2,240.00	1,389.69	1.611869
November	111.03	2,308.19	1,390.84	1.659562
December	111.11	2,327.76	1,431.91	1.625638
January-December	86.87	1,718.49	1,086.44	1.564528
2010:				
January	111.24	2,367.70	1,464.68	1.616535
February	110.35	2,122.45	1,358.72	1.562100
March	110.53	2,171.66	1,443.00	1.504961
April	110.88	2,264.48	1,526.82	1.483130
May	109.46	1,882.18	1,285.55	1.464105
June	105.49	1,703.39	1,154.71	1.475168
July	95.11	1,836.40	1,201.59	1.528305
August	95.79	2,074.77	1,324.67	1.566257
September	102.24	2,183.69	1,403.42	1.555982
January-September	105.68	2,067.41	1,351.46	1.528505

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks August 31, 2010	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks September 30, 2010
Battery-lead	24,000	90,800	91,500	23,300
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other <sup>2</sup>	660	8,010	8,010	664
Total	24,700	98,800	99,500	23,900
Percent change from preceding month <sup>3</sup>	XX	-2.3	-0.9	-3.0

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap.

<sup>3</sup>Based on unrounded data; preceding monthly data may have been revised.

TABLE 4  
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM  
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 2010<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	56,400	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	6,740	(2)	(2)
Other <sup>3</sup>	30,300	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	93,400	125	203

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>3</sup>Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2009		2010		
	January- December	January- September	August	September	January- September
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	70,500	55,700	6,580	6,270	56,400
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,920	2,960	233	233	2,140
Cable covering, power and communication and caulking lead, building construction	5,830	4,600	675	675	5,600
Casting metals	20,100	15,100	1,320	1,340	10,900
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	27,100	20,200	2,410	2,330	24,000
Solder	7,270	5,490	687	687	6,490
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,210,000	896,000	98,100	98,100	885,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products <sup>2</sup>	16,700	12,500	1,220	1,220	11,100
Total metal products	1,360,000	1,010,000	111,000	111,000	1,000,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	21,300	16,500	1,890	1,970	17,500
Total reported	1,380,000	1,030,000	113,000	113,000	1,020,000
Undistributed <sup>e</sup>	41,500	30,900	3,400	3,380	30,600
Grand total	1,430,000	1,060,000	117,000	116,000	1,050,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

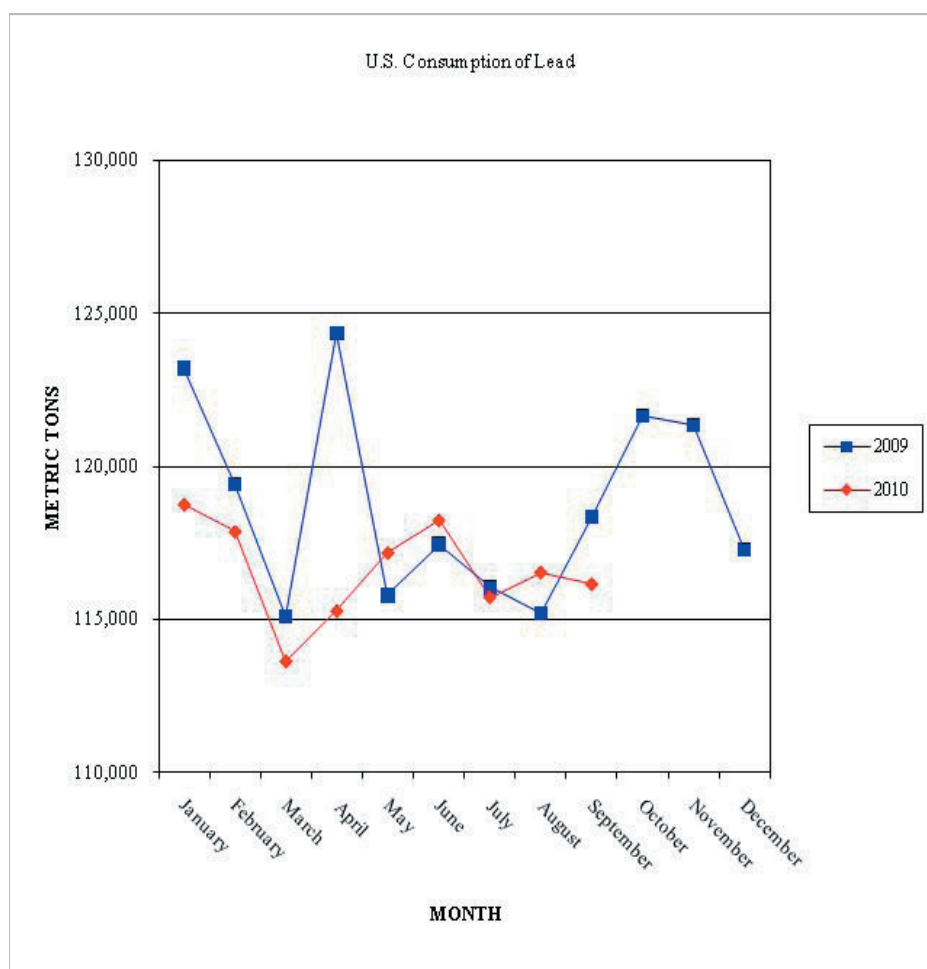


TABLE 6  
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	August 31, 2010			September 30, 2010
Soft lead	34,100 <sup>r</sup>	73,900	73,400	34,600
Antimonial lead	15,800	20,200	21,100	14,800
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	59,100 <sup>r</sup>	112,000	113,000	58,700

<sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

	2009		2010		
	Year	January- August	July	August	January- August
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	287,000	181,000	43,600	25,900	151,000
Bullion	34	25	(2)	1	1
Materials excluding scrap	82,000	60,600	6,680	6,310	47,500
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,070	1,810	95	88	625
Total	371,000	244,000	50,400	32,300	199,000
Gross weight, scrap	140,000	96,900	1,110	2,820	36,800
Spent lead-acid batteries, used for starting engines (units)	7,300,000	2,440,000	1,090,000	1,410,000	9,380,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY  
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	2009		2010		
	Year	January- August	July	August	January- August
Ore, matte, etc., Canada	1,490	1,490	--	--	--
Base bullion:					
Mexico	810	656	--	--	108
Other	34	34	--	--	38
Total	844	690	--	--	146
Pigs and bars:					
Canada	205,000	130,000	18,600	14,300	157,000
Mexico	41,100	30,400	3,320	2,360	21,300
Peru	991	991	--	--	--
Other	4,020	3,540	76	299	4,060
Total	251,000	164,000	22,000	16,900	182,000
Grand total	253,000	167,000	22,000	16,900	182,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.